

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 24-25 remain pending in the instant application after the foregoing amendments.

Applicants have amended the specification to reference the prior filed applications from which the instant application claims benefit. Applicants respectfully contend that the requirements for submitting such an amendment under 37 CFR §1.78(a)(2)(ii) and (a)(3) should be waived because the USPTO has recognized the claim for benefit on the Filing Receipt (a copy of which is attached). Applicants note that the Notice on Claiming the Benefit of Prior-Filed Applications, from Deputy Commissioner Stephan Kunin, dated February 24, 2003, specifically states that the requirements under 37 CFR §1.78(a)(3)(ii) and (iii) will be waived if the "information concerning the claim was recognized by the Office as shown by its inclusion on the filing receipt."

Applicants note that Claims 1-5 have been "currently amended".

Claim 1 has been amended to add hydrogen (H) to the list of substituents to comprise R⁷. Applicants believe this was an inadvertent typographical error as all of Applicants' compounds described in schemes 1-11 and the associated tables require that R⁷ is hydrogen. Further, applicants note that reaction schemes II, III, V and VII, used to describe the general synthesis of the instant compounds, requires that R⁷ is hydrogen.

Claims 2-4 have been amended to change the R^z substituent #20 from "S(O)₂NR⁹R¹⁰" to "S(O)₂N(R^b)₂". "R⁹ and R¹⁰" are not defined in the specification. Applicants believe this was an inadvertent typographical error and that this #20 substituent in R^z (in Claims 2-4) should reflect the #20 substituent in R^z in Claim 1.

Claim 4 has also been amended to remove "phenyl" in the definition of Q. Applicants believe this was an inadvertent error as Claim 4 is dependent upon Claim 3 wherein Q is defined as NR⁵R⁶ and heterocyclyl.

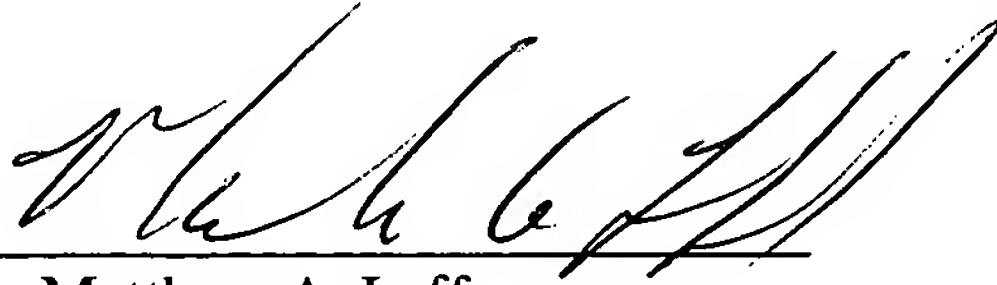
Claim 5 has been amended to add a comma at the end of the #20 substituent of R^z. Applicants believe this was an inadvertent typographical error.

Applicants believe the current amendments do not add new subject matter.

If a telephonic communication with the Applicants' representative will advance the prosecution of the instant application, please telephone the representative indicated below. Applicants believe no additional fees are due but the Commissioner is

authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this amendment to Merck Deposit
Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Date: July 26, 2005